

Standard 7-6 The student will demonstrate an understanding of international developments in the post-World War II world, including the impact of the Cold War on the world.

7-6.3 Explain the causes and major features of the political and social change that occurred in the Middle East in the post-World War II period, including the role of nationalism, the creation of the state of Israel, and ongoing conflicts in the region. (H, P, G)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught about the political and social changes that occurred in the Middle East in the post-World War II period.

In Global Studies, students will compare the challenges and successes of the movements toward independence and democratic reform in various regions following World War II, including the role of political ideology, religion, and ethnicity in shaping governments and the course of independence and democratic movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (GS-6.3). Students will also summarize the impact of economic and political interdependence on the world, including the influence of terrorist movements on politics in various countries (GS-6.4).

In US History, students will summarize the origins and course of the Cold War, including the conflicts in Korea, Africa, and the Middle East (USHC-9.2). Students will also compare the domestic and foreign policies of the period as well as relations with the Soviet Union and the continuing crises in the Middle East under all administrations from Harry Truman to Jimmy Carter (USHC-9.5).

It is essential for students to know the importance of nationalism in the Middle East. Students should understand the history of the Jews and Palestinians and why both groups claim Palestine. The Zionist movement gained strength in the late 1800s and early 1900s, with many Jews returning to Palestine and calling for a Jewish nation-state. The Balfour Declaration (1917), issued by the British, further increased the tension between the Jews and Palestinians because the British supported the creation of a Jewish state as long as the rights of the Palestinians were protected. With the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in WWI, Palestine became a British mandate. After the Holocaust, support for the Zionist movement became stronger worldwide. The United Nations decided to divide Palestine into a Jewish state and a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as an international city. The Palestinians were very upset with the partition plan since they made up the majority of the population. The country of Israel was created in 1948 and was immediately attacked by the Palestinians. Israel defeated the Palestinians and retained control of their land. The Israelis and the Palestinians fought brief wars over the disputed territory in 1956, 1967, and 1973. With its victory in the first war (1948-1949), the Israelis gained half of the land inhabited by the Palestinians. Egypt acquired the Gaza Strip, and Jordan took over the West Bank.

Arab nationalism was further evident in the Suez Crisis of 1956. Egyptian President Gamal Nasser sent troops to take over the Suez Canal, which had been built by British investors using Egyptian labor. Nasser was upset that the British did not provide him with financial support in the construction of the Aswan Dam and wanted to rid Egypt of foreign influence. Great Britain wanted to retake the canal and convinced Israel to send in troops, while collaborating with the French to provide air support. Egypt was defeated, but the United States and the Soviet Union forced Great Britain, France, and Israel to give up the land they had captured and return the canal to Egypt.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was created in 1964 in order to promote the creation of a Palestinian state. Yasir Arafat became its leader. Guerrilla groups soon began to gain power within the PLO and claimed that they had to use military force in order to create a Palestinian state. In 1967, Nasser and other Arab leaders prepared for war against Israel. Israel, however, made the first move and attacked Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iran winning the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, Golan Heights, and Jerusalem in the Six Day War. The Yom Kippur War occurred in 1973 when the Arabs attacked Israel. A cease-fire was signed several weeks later. The first major peace agreement in the region, the Camp David Accords, was signed by Egypt and Israel in 1979. Egypt recognized Israel as a country and received the Sinai Peninsula from Israel. Many Arabs, however, were upset with the peace agreement, and a group of Muslim radicals assassinated Egyptian president Anwar Sadat. Palestinians launched the *intifada* in 1987, which consisted of demonstrations and attacks against Israeli troops. In 1993, progress was made with the Oslo Peace Accords. Israel agreed to give the Palestinians self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, starting with Jericho. However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist and a lasting peace in the area remains elusive to this day.

It is not essential for students to know the specific military details of the Arab-Israeli Wars.

Assessment guidelines: Appropriate assessment should require students to **explain** the impact of the Zionist movement and the creation of Israel. Students should be able to **analyze** the reasons for the ongoing conflicts in the region.